



THE GULL

CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NOV 28 1988
LIBRARY

ONE MILLION REASONS AND MORE

One million reasons to donate to our benefit drawing? One million shorebirds worth of reasons. Recent studies have shown our Bay to be one of the most critical resting places for shorebirds migrating tens of thousands of miles from the Arctic to South America. Without our Bay's wetlands this shorebird migration would become a trip to extinction. All monies generated by our drawing will go specifically to our fight to preserve these wetlands from destruction. GGAS has been one of the most influential players in this wetland battle. But we can continue to be so only with your financial support.

THERE ARE STILL 6000 REASONS TO ENTER.

6000 Reasons? We have had our wetlands quilt appraised by a reputable firm and have been told that our, and maybe your, wetland quilt is worth \$6,000. Well, we could have told them that. We think its worth even more.

Seriously, the quilt is really valued at \$6000 and that's quite a good reason for joining our drawing, in addition to all the other prizes. Please help our birds and help yourself too, contribute to our drawing in the Christmas spirit.

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A GGAS FIELD TRIP:

In response to a request from your editor some months ago, we have a report of a field trip. Led by Anna Wilcox and Jean Marie Spoelman eleven birders showed up on an over-cast morning, cold with some wind, about 50 to 60° F. Characterized as a mini-trip they saw thirty-nine species in the Emeryville Crescent and surrounding area:

Pied Bill Grebe	2
Horned Grebe	2
Western Grebe	22
Brown Pelican	17
Double Crested Cormorant	28
Great Blue Heron	1
Great Egret	2
Snowy Egret	2
Mallard	2
Surf Scoter	9
Black-shouldered Kite	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	2
American Kestrel	2
Peregrine Falcon	2
American Coot	21
Black-bellied Plover	5
Killdeer	7
Black-necked Stilt	7
American Avocet	5
Willet	11
Spotted Sandpiper	1
sandpiper species	150
Whimbrel	4
Long-billed Curlew	3
Marbled Godwit	10
Dunlin	5
dowitcher species	6
Ring-billed Gull	7
California Gull	4
Western Gull	9
Forsters Tern	3
Mourning Dove	6
Belted Kingfisher	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Song Sparrow	3
White-crowned Sparrow	8
Brewers Blackbird	17

House Finch11

Doesn't that whet your interest in a field trip? Why not try one?

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec. 3—Monterey Bay. See November Gull for details.

Sunday, Dec. 4—Five Brooks and Limantour. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Five Brooks Pond/Stable parking lot (approximately five miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). Wintering waterbirds and anything else: Bob Ulvang will lead an excursion to Five Brooks Pond, Marin Co.; from there we will travel to Limantour, Point Reyes National Seashore, and explore Muddy Hollow. Possible option will include the estuary at Limantour. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for extremes of weather; bring raingear and appropriate footwear, binoculars, scopes, and field guides. Join us for a potluck lunch and bring something to share. Call Bob Ulvang and Renna Kaufman at 824-3035.

Wednesday, Dec. 14—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt. See November Gull for details.

Saturday, Jan. 7—Stockton/Lodi and Thornton. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Stockton sewage ponds at the main gate. From the Bay Area take Hwy. 580 to Hwy. 4 (Charter Way in Stockton). Go west on Hwy. 4 about 1.5 miles to the entrance to the sewage ponds where we will look for rare gulls, then caravan to the Lodi sewage ponds for rare shorebirds and to Thornton to look for cranes. Dress warmly and be prepared for rain. Bring lunch. Leader: David Yee (209/951-1526). (✓)

Sunday, Jan. 8—Dillon Beach. Meet

at 7:45 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101). We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales where we will stop by the old Bank of America building on Hwy. 1 at 9 a.m. to meet the people from west Marin. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee). Bring lunch, warm clothes, raingear and a scope if you have one. We may see three species of Loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants, and Snowy Plovers. Golden Plovers are regular on this trip. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

Wednesday, Jan. 11—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy. 880 (Nimitz) to Hegenberger Rd. exit, proceed to Doolittle and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right onto Swan. Turn left after about a block and follow the signs to the marsh. Park in the second parking lot on the left. We will look for Burrowing Owls and waterfowl. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓). Call Russ Wilson (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

MORRO BAY TRIP OCTOBER 22-23

Our thanks to the Morrow Coast Audubon Chapter for an excellent weekend trip. Lois Felmlee who organized the trip, took us to the Overlook and provided goodies and coffee. Morley Weir spotted a peregrine falcon for us. Phil Persons who manages Sweet Springs for Audubon took us to see the preserve which they persuaded developers to give to State Conser-

vancy. We walked the bluffs at Montana d'Oro and found an oystercatcher and a surf bird in the same pose as in the museum.

Sunday, Museum Ranger Diane Mcrath showed a film on peregrines and guided us through the spotless taxidermy lab. Joanna Frawley, President of the Chapter, will put us on the mailing list.

—HAZEL HOUSTON

'89 AUDUBON CONVENTION

The Tucson Audubon Society, assisted by five other Arizona chapters, will welcome the Biennial National Audubon Convention from Tuesday through Saturday, Sept. 12-16, 1989, at the Doubletree Hotel at Randolph Park in Tucson. An impressive array of field trips to various Southwest ecosystems will be offered before, during and after the convention. Programs will be designed around the convention theme, *Our Southwest—Challenged by Growth*.

The convention office (4150 Darley, Suite 5A, Boulder, Colorado 80303) will handle details, including registration and will be glad to answer questions. Peter A. Berle, Audubon President, urges all chapters to consider sending at least one representative to the convention.



OBSERVATIONS

September 20 through October 24

Migrants turned up almost continuously throughout the period, seemingly without respect for expected arrival/weather pattern correlations. However, there were some high points in the migration, with good numbers of birds arriving Sept. 29–Oct. 6–9, and Oct. 14–16. The SE Farallon Island information, for the period Sept. 24–Oct. 19, is incorporated into the body of this column, and is courtesy of Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO).

Tubenoses through Raptors

Northern Fulmars began to arrive "on time." A light morph individual was found on Oct. 2 by whale-watching excursionists (ToJ), and three were seen out of Monterey Oct. 23 (LJP). Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters and four to five Black-vented Shearwaters were found on the same Monterey trip Oct. 23 (BHi). Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, and two Least Storm-Petrels were in a flock of 13,000 Black and Ashy Storm-Petrels seen on a pelagic trip out of Monterey Sept. 25 (SJ). One Wilson's Storm-Petrel was near Cordell Bank Oct. 23 (KFC).

A White-faced Ibis, first found at the Salinas River mouth Sept. 4, continued to be seen through Oct. 22 (mob). Another three flew over the Golden Gate Bridge Oct. 13 (JCo). The first Eurasian Wigeon for our area was seen at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 22 (JLD). Another seven Eurasian Wigeons were found throughout the area Oct. 3–23 (mob). In addition to the male Harlequin Duck which has taken up its station in Bolinas Lagoon for another winter, there were two others along the coast: one at Ano Nuevo State Reserve Oct. 8 (PJM), and another near Pt. Pinos Oct. 10 (RS). Ten were seen a little north of our area near

Sea Ranch, Oct. 21 (KR, KrR). The season's first Oldsquaw appeared off Weber's Pt., China Camp State Park, Oct. 23 (DeeS).

At least six Northern Goshawks migrated over the Marin Headlands in mid-October (HBr, CLF). A total of fifty-four Broad-winged Hawks were recorded from the Marin Headlands by Oct. 19 (CLF), and one dark morph Broad-winged Hawk was seen Oct. 9 (*fide* JM). Over 200 Swainson's Hawks were in a field near Davis Sept. 25 (TCo). Rough-legged Hawks began to show up in mid-October; the first was reported from Pt. Reyes Oct. 15 (AD).
Shorebirds

Shorebird pursuit slowed down here in northern California. However, a **Little Curlew** found its way to northern Santa Barbara Co., near the Santa Maria River mouth Sept. 23–24 to delight birders throughout California. The latest dates I received for the spectacular birds of last month were: **Terek Sandpiper** at Carmel River State Beach Sept. 23 (*fide* DR, JMS), **Hudsonian Godwit** at Salinas River mouth Oct. 3 (mob). A second **Bartailed Godwit** (in addition to last month's Salinas River mouth bird) was seen briefly, flying across Bolinas Lagoon Sept. 20 (KH). Four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were discovered in the area during the period. The most unusual for location was one at Alameda South Shore Sept. 21–24 (DWo, mob), where they are considered accidental. Stilt Sandpipers turned up in four locations: three at Pescadero Marsh Sept. 20 (ASH), two remaining through Sept. 25 (JM, RSTh, MFe); one at the Ceres Sewage ponds in Stanislaus Co. Sept. 23 (HMR); one at Moonglow Dairy Oct. 2–11 (DWh, SFB, JM, JMHu); and one at Hayward Shoreline Oct. 5 (RJR). A Ruff, found near Owl canyon at Bodega Bay Oct. 22 (LC), was still present through Oct. 24 (KFC, mob).

Larids through Alcids

South Polar Skuas were found on most pelagic trips out of Monterey in late September (SJ), and one was seen off of Monterey Oct. 23 (BHi). SE Farallon biologists saw one South Polar Skua Sept. 25, a seventh record for the Island, and one was found on a Whale Center trip to the Farallones Oct. 9 (ToJ). An immature Franklin's Gull appeared at Stockton Sewage ponds Sept. 27 (DGY). An immature **Little Gull** was discovered off Pt. Pinos on a Monterey pelagic trip (DaS, *fide* RB). One Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted on a Farallon Island Whale trip Oct. 23 (ToJ). Twenty-three Sabine's gulls were found out of Monterey Oct. 1 (SJ). A single Sabine's was seen on a Farallon Island Whale trip Oct. 23 (ToJ).

Small numbers of Xantus' and Craveri's Murrelets continued to be found offshore on the pelagic excursions during the period. Eight Craveri's out of Monterey Sept. 24 (SJ) was a good number.

Doves through Vireos

Four White-winged Doves were distributed from Outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 20 (DN), to Little Sur River mouth Oct. 1 (DR), with one at SE Farallon Oct. 8—a 10th Island record, and another at Corte Madera Marsh Oct. 9 (DAH). Pelagic birders out of Monterey found a Burrowing Owl 41.3 miles offshore Sept. 24 (SJ)—another displaced owl dramatically protesting its loss of habitat?

A Red-naped Sapsucker was at Frank Raines Park Oct. 8–9 (HMR). Another was found at Fort Mason in San Francisco Oct. 11 (MBu). A Least Flycatcher graced the Fish Docks Sept. 20–21 (AG, THK). An Eastern Phoebe found SE Farallon Oct. 20. A **Great-crested Flycatcher** was along the Carmel River bed Oct. 9 (MCM). Nine Tropical

Kingbirds were found from Marin to Monterey Counties throughout the period (mob) with five of those being discovered in San Mateo Co. (PJM, DKe).

A **Northern Wheatear** was discovered in a barnyard between Orland and Kirkwood in southern Tehama Co. Oct. 13 (SAL). This individual, which must have been trying to find its way to Africa where the species winters, was only the third Northern Wheatear known to have reached California. It obliged observers by staying around through Oct. 15 (mob).

A **Veery** at Nunes Ranch and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at the Lighthouse on Oct. 7 (RS, BiL) eluded other observers. A possible **Veery** was seen near the Lighthouse Oct. 15–16 (DDeS, DASH, *fide* JW), and an apparent **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was also near the Lighthouse Oct. 15 (DDeS, RS). A Sage Thrasher found its way to Del Puerto Canyon Oct. 8–9 (HMR). A Brown Thrasher, found on thrush day at Pt. Reyes, Oct. 7, stayed near the Lighthouse through Oct. 17 (RS, BiL, DDeS, mob, KGH). One also visited SE Farallon Oct. 12. The **Bendire's Thrasher** returned to Jahant Rd. near Lodi Oct. 14 (DGY).

And if that isn't enough boldface for you, a **Gray Wagtail**, first record in North America south of Alaska, was seen by some of the Western Field Ornithologist members at the mouth of the Salinas River Oct. 9–10 (DaS, mob). Two **Red-throated Pipits** arrived this month: one at the Salinas River mouth Oct. 3 (*fide* DR), and the other at SE Farallon Oct. 6, for a third Island record.

An eastern form of Solitary Vireo was near Pioneer Log Cabin in Golden Gate Park Oct. 12 (JM). A Philadelphia Vireo was reported at the Lighthouse Sept. 22 (ScC). Another possible Phil-

adelphia was at Nunes Sept. 30 (KLG), and a third probable Philadelphia was at Mendoza Oct. 8-12 (DAH, RS). In Monterey Co. Carmel had one Philadelphia Vireo Oct. 3 (RS, *fide* DR). Three Red-eyed Vireos were seen during October: one at North Lake, Golden Gate Park Oct. 1 was believed to be the same individual seen earlier in September (JM); one at SE Farallon Oct. 6; and one at Bodega Bay Oct. 11-12 (DN, NTC). A **Yellow-green Vireo**, rare vagrant north of the Mexican border, was photographed at Nunes Ranch Sept. 30 (PLaT). Another **Yellow-green Vireo** was at Esplanade Park, Pacific Grove Oct. 9-12 (SEF, RN, *fide* MFe). Formerly lumped with Red-eyed Vireo, the Yellow-green has again been split from that species by the American Ornithological Union (see *The Auk*, July 1987, pp. 593-594). However, the California Bird Records Committee has considered them separately all along. Details should be submitted for this species, and for all bold-faced species, to Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Vagrant Warblers

The warbler chart is organized in the same fashion as last month's, and lists 154 individuals (256 for fall), of 17 species (21 for fall). These numbers represent the fourth best fall vagrant warbler season since the high of 1974.

Tennessee Warbler (Total 10; 22 for fall)

3	Pt. Reyes-Fish Docks	Sept. 21;	THK
	(continuing bird)		
		Sept. 29;	
		Oct. 14	ScC;DWm
4	G.G. Park-North Lake	Sept. 23 (2);	DPM
		Sept. 30-	
		Oct. 1 (2)	DPM
1	SFB NWR	Sept 30	PEG
1	SE Farallon	Oct. 12	PRBO
1	Pescadero (town)	Oct. 14	PJM
	Virginia's Warbler (total 1; 3 for fall)		
1	Pescadero (town)	Oct. 10-11	RSTh, DKe
	Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 4; 14 for fall)		

1	G.G. Park-North Lake	Sept. 23	DPM
1	Pioneer Log Cabin	Oct. 4	JMu
1	Monterey-Casa Munras	Oct. 7-8	AMC,mob
1	Bodega Bay	Oct. 7	DN
	Magnolia Warbler (total 7; 14 for fall)		
1	Pt. Reyes-Nunes	Sept. 22-25	ScC,DES
2	Lighthouse	Oct. 2	MJL,JM
		Oct. 7	RS,BiL
1	Bodega Bay	Sept. 22	DN
1	Carmel Mission Trails	Oct. 3-8	RS, <i>fide</i> ,DR JM
1	Pescadero (town)	Oct. 14	PJM
1	Carmel River bed	Oct. 21	AKr
	Black-throated Blue Warbler (total 16)		
1	Pt. Reyes-Mendoza	Sept. 23	MBu
1	Nunes	Oct. 12	RS
3	Fish Docks	Oct. 12-21	RS,JM,GFi
1	Sunnyvale Sewage	Sept. 25	PJM
1	G.G. Park-Middle to North Lake	Oct. 1-5	DPM,JMS, ASH,SMo
1	Princeton Inn	Oct. 1	DKe
2	Bodega Bay	Oct. 6-7	DN
5	SE Farallon	Oct. 6-21	PRBO
1	Pacific Grove	Oct. 9-11	SEF,MLR
	Blackburnian Warbler (total 12; 13 for fall)		
1	Olema Marsh	Sept. 26	RS,DWm
2	SE Farallon	Oct. 2;	PRBO
		Oct. 21	
1	Pt. Reyes-Mendoza	Oct. 3	KGH,MLR
1	Nunes	Oct. 7-8	RS,BiL, MiW
4	Fish Docks	Oct. 10; 15-16(2);	KH;DDeS
		Oct. 21	JM;
			GFi
1	Bodega Bay	Oct. 13	DN
1	Pescadero (town)	Oct. 14	PJM
1	Bolinas Lagoon	Oct. 23	KH
	Prairie Warbler (total 3; 8 for fall)		
1	Pt. Reyes-New Willows	Sept. 22-23	ScC,MBu
	(continuing bird)		
1	Nunes	Oct. 23	JAsh
1	Carmel River mouth	Oct. 21	AKr
	Palm Warbler (total 51; 53 for fall)		
2	Corte Madera Marsh	Sept. 23	DAH
		Oct. 9	
12	Outer Pt. Reyes	Sept. 24-	mob
		Oct. 23	
22	SE Farallon	Sept. 24-	PRBO
		Oct. 19	
1	Muir Beach	Oct. 1	DAH
2	Pacific Grove	Oct. 2	DWh
4	Bodega Bay	Oct. 6-7;11	DN;
		Oct. 16(2)	JM
1	Rodeo Lagoon	Oct. 8	NK
1	Ano Nuevo SR	Oct. 8	PJM
2	Bolinas Lagoon	Oct. 9	MBu,NPe
3	Half Moon Bay Airport	Oct. 11, 18-20	PJM
1	G.G. Park-Stowe Lake	Oct. 12	JM
	Bay-breasted Warbler (total 1)		
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 24	PRBO

Blackpoll Warbler (total 30; 44 for fall)			
1	S.F.-Harding Golf	Sept. 20	DPM
3	Coyote Hills	Sept. 20(2)	PEG;RJR
		Oct. 7	
4	Outer Pt. Reyes	Sept. 23-	mob
		Oct. 12	
12	SE Farallon	Sept. 24-	PRBO
		Oct. 22	
1	SFB NWR	Sept. 30	PEG
2	G.G. Park-Middle Lake	Sept. 30-	DPM;ASH
		Oct. 1;2	
1	Moss Beach	Oct. 3	PJM
2	Pescadero (town)	Oct. 6;14	RSth;PJM
1	Monterey-Casa Munras	Oct. 7-8	AMC,mob
2	Pacific Grove	Oct. 8-10	<i>fide</i> DR,RS
1	Carmel River bed	Oct. 9	<i>fide</i> RFT
Black-and-white Warbler (total 6; 11 for fall)			
1	Pt. Reyes-Fish Docks	Sept. 20	JMR
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 28	PRBO
1	G.G. Park-North Lake	Sept. 30-	DPM,JMS
		Oct. 15	SMo,JM
1	Bodega Bay	Oct. 8	DN
1	Carmel River bed	Oct. 9	JM
1	Berkeley residence	Oct. 13	HG
American Redstart (total 11; 30 for fall)			
1	Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	Sept. 22	ScC
1	Mendoza	Oct. 7-12	BiL,RS
2	Coyote Hills	Sept. 23;	RJR;
		Oct. 4	JMS
1	Moss Beach	Sept. 27-29	DKe,PJM
1	Carmel	Oct. 3	RS <i>fide</i>
			DR
1	G.G. Park-North Lake	Oct. 5	SMo
4	SE Farallon	Oct. 6-22	PRBO
Prothonotary Warbler (total 1)			
1	Pt. Reyes-Lighthouse	Sept. 29	ScC
Ovebird (total 2; 7 for fall)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 26;	PRBO
		Oct. 11	
Northern Waterthrush (total 1; 8 for fall)			
1	Pt. Reyes-Nunes	Oct. 8	MiW
	(fall total includes a late report from Monterey, Sept. 13)		
Mourning Warbler (total 1; 2 for fall)			
1	Carmel River bed	Oct. 8	DR
	(2 other apparent Mourning Warbler reports for the period are on file)		
Canada Warbler (total 2; 5 for fall)			
1	Pt. Reyes-Road Forks Pool	Oct. 9	KH
1	Carmel River bed	Oct. 14	JMa

More Landbirds

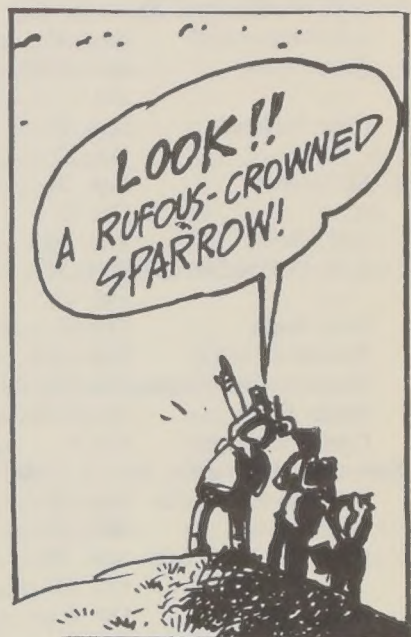
A Summer Tanager was heard calling near Hole-in-the-Head, Bodega Bay Oct. 16 (JM). Only one "real" Rose-breasted Grosbeak this period found its way to SE Farallon on Oct. 6, but an adult male hybrid Rose-breasted/Black-

headed Grosbeak was banded there Oct. 21! An Indigo Bunting was found near Bolinas Lagoon Sept. 24 (GMk, KA), and a male Indigo Bunting was at the Zen Center Greenhouses east of Muir Beach Oct. 1 (DAH).

One Green-tailed Towhee arrived at Mt. San Bruno Oct. 9 (JMcC). An American Tree Sparrow was found near Spaletta slop ponds Oct. 3 (KGH, MLR), and another reached SE Farallon Oct. 8. Seventeen Clay-colored Sparrows were well distributed from Marin to Monterey Cos. Five Brewer's Sparrows and six Vesper Sparrows reached coastal areas through the period. Five Swamp Sparrows arrived for the winter at traditional locations. A more unusual spot for one (any other Contra Costa Co. records?) was Alhambra Creek bridge, Martinez Marina Oct. 14 (RJR). The fall total of White-throated Sparrows to date is fifteen. One Harris' Sparrow was seen at Pier 98 Landfill Oct. 23 (ASH). The first Lapland Longspur was found at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Sept. 21 (PJM). Another twenty-four Laplands enjoyed weed fields from Marin to San Mateo Cos. Up to ten Chestnut collared Longspurs visited Spaletta Plateau and the fields near Drake's Beach Corners Oct. 2-23 (mob), and another was at Half Moon Bay Airport fields Oct. 23 (PJM). One Bobolink was found at Nunes Ranch Oct. 1 (DN); another reached SE Farallon Oct. 7. A Rusty Blackbird was in the blackbird flocks near Nunes Ranch Oct. 7 (RS, BiL). A male Orchard Oriole found its way to a residence in Pacific Grove Oct. 10 (THK).

Observers: Ken Ackerman, John Asher (JAsh), Dick Ashford (DASH), Stephen F. Bailey, Robert Ball, Dennis Beall (DnB), Herb Brandt, Mark Butler (MBu), Kurt F. Campbell, Scott Carey (ScC), Terry Colburn (TCO), John

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Comstock (JCo), Nancy T. Conzett, Debbie Cotter, Alan M. Craig, Lynn Cumrack, Dave DeSante, Ann Dewart, Jon L. Dunn, Art L. Edwards, Al M. Eisner, Carter L. Faust, Marc Fenner (MFe), George Finger (GFi), Shawneen E. Finnegan, Alexander Gaguine, Al Ghiorso, Brad Goodhart, Philip E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Helen Green, Kevin L. Guse, Keith Hansen, Kevin G. Hintsa, Bob Hirt (BHi),

David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, Joan M. Humphrey, Tony Jackson, Tom Johnson (ToJ), Nancy Kedith, Dan Keller (DKe), Ted H. Koundakjian, Andy Krater (AKr), Peter LaTourette (PLaT), Steve A. Laymon, Bill Lenarz (BiL), Donna Lion, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, Mike Mamoser, John Mariani (JMa), Gloria Markowitz (GMk), John McCormick, Peter J. Metropulos, Mark C. Miller,



Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrical (SMo), Daniel P. Murphy, Janet Murphy (JMu), Dan Nelson, Rod Norden, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Noel Perkins (NPe), Magnus Persmark, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Phil Henderson and Peter Pyle), David Powell, Lina J. Prairie, Harold M. Reeve, Jean M. Richmond, Richard J. Richmond, Krehe Ritter (KrR), Kathy Ritter, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Rostron (PhR), Don E. Schmoldt, Shearwater Journeys, David Sibley (DaS), Larry Silver, Dan Singer (DSg), Judy Spitler, Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Dee Sunderland (DeeS), Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), Robert F. Tintle, Janet A. Wessel, David Wharton (DWh), Mike Wihler (MiW), David Wimpfheimer (DWm), Dennis Wolff (DWo), David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor

2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707

THANKS, PHIL FRANK

Again, we reprint, with the artist's permission, one of the Farley comments on life in the San Francisco Bay Area.

OAKLAND'S COUNT NEEDS YOU!

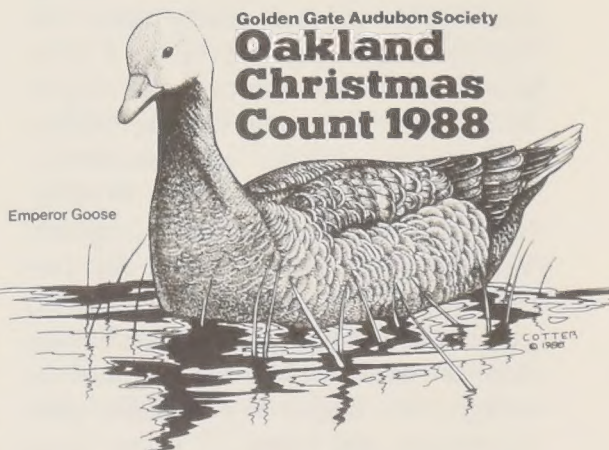
Once again novice and experienced birders (and those in-between) are needed in field **Sunday, Dec. 18** to help in the 89th annual Christmas bird count. The Oakland count area is circular with a 15 mile diameter. It stretches from Lafayette to Yerba Buena Island, and from Pt. Isabel in Albany to San Leandro. Habitats range from open bay to redwood forest. This large area is

divided into territories, each assigned a group of volunteers who search out and count as many species and individuals as they can find. Ambitious birders are out before dawn counting owls too. Those who have active feeders within the count circle can help by keeping feeder tally at home.

The count area is large—177 square miles—and we need your help. You needn't be an expert to participate. If you are new to birding you will be assigned to an experienced leader. Please call the GGAS office (843-2222) if you can help in any way.

The popularity of last year's Brown Towhee t-shirt has prompted us to produce another offering for this CBC. Debbie Cotter's stunning design concept—the Emperor Goose. One, star of Alameda South Shore last year, languished there until April 17. This handsome goose is gray blue on a white cotton t-shirt, adult sizes from small thru extra-large costs \$11.00 including tax. Order forms were included in CBC letters sent out in November and appear elsewhere in this issue.

Our Oakland Countdown dinner will be at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Reservations are recommended, \$4.00 at the door. Doors open at 5 p.m.



SAN FRANCISCO DOES TOO!

Now is the time to plan your participation in the sixth annual San Francisco Christmas Bird Count. This year's count will be held the **Wednesday** prior to Christmas, **Dec. 21**. Join us all day, for a few hours at a downtown or neighborhood park or square, or for as little as 30 minutes at your feeder. Though we have a preliminary commitment for the use of a boat, we are interested in adding a second one. We will have our countdown dinner at the Hall of Flowers once again. This year's t-shirt will feature a Clark's Grebe by Alan Hopkins.

To sign-up for the count or help with a boat, please call the compilers: Donna Lion, Dan Murphy (564-0074), Alan Hopkins (664-0983).



1989 OPPORTUNITIES

The best part of my job is meeting Audubon people and visiting places that Audubon is trying to protect. I combined these two pleasures in late August by meeting with some chapter leaders in Fairbanks, Alaska, and then traveling to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Audubon Alaska Regional Vice-president Dave Cline, my two sons, Macgill Adams—a wilderness guide and member of the Anchorage chapter—and I walked the length of the refuge. We began in the Sadlerochit Mountains and hiked 75 miles along

Marsh Fork Creek through the coastal plain to the Beaufort Sea. We saw lots of wildlife and reaffirmed our conviction that this refuge is worth fighting for. This year, in a victory for conservationists, Congress gave up trying to pass legislation that would open the refuge to oil drilling. The industry will be back next year and we will have our hands full in trying to win permanent protection for this world-class resource.

After four years of hard work by conservationists, a strengthened Endangered Species Act finally made it through Congress. Most recently—and also after years of effort—Congress reauthorized and improved the nation's badly outdated pesticide law, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In order to get the act through, legislators left out some important but controversial provisions, including groundwater protection. However, it is a positive step forward.

Audubon is recruiting volunteers interested in this country's foreign aid policies because Congress will soon begin rewriting the Foreign Assistance Act. Write: Foreign Assistance Action Project, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

We also have a terrific hands-on action opportunity for people concerned about the rapid loss of ancient forests—especially in the Pacific Northwest. Our new Adopt-a-Forest program teaches you how to defend your favorite places in national forests. Volunteers are out there right now mapping, investigating, consulting with Forest Service officials, and saving trees. For more information write to Brock Evans at the above address.

PETER A.A. BERLE
NAS President

National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

☐ My check for \$20 is enclosed.

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Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society

1550 Shattuck Avenue #204

Berkeley, California 94709



SHOREBIRD CENSUS

A report from PRBO on its September shorebird census indicates that in two days 175 observers covered the entire shoreline of San Francisco and San Pablo bays counting 364,000 shorebirds. The final estimate based on this count is not yet ready. An aerial survey was done of Suisun Bay, and about 100 observers counted shorebirds in all the major wetland areas along the central and northern coast.

Gary Page released a final estimate of up to a million shorebirds for the spring census of 638,000 counted. This clearly ranks the Bay (see page 161) as one of the three estuarine systems supporting the greatest shorebird population along the Pacific Flyway. Alaska's Copper River Delta and Gray's Harbor in Washington are the other two.

Future censuses of the Pacific Flyway from Baja to Alaska and evaluations of shorebird habitat requirements will provide scientific results of value to planners and environmentalists. The data will support public efforts to better protect wetland habitats.

GGAS AND THE BIRDATHON

The 1988 Birdathon made great advances: 161 chapters raised over \$200,000 and donated \$100,450 to support NAS programs. Three thousand birders were out. Dallas' Audubon chapter saw the largest number, 259 species with eleven teams all over the state. The Everglades chapter raised the largest amount of money, \$15,000. The Santa Clara chapter's Trish Mulvey's team had the highest per species pledge total: \$750.

At the meeting of the GGAS board of directors in October plans were begun to make our participation in the next Birdathon more exciting and more effective. Watch *The GULL* for details.

ANNOUNCING Audubon Wildlife ADVENTURES

Audubon Television has just released all-new computer software to complement the TV series. The first disk, entitled "Grizzly Bears," introduces players to that magnificent animal through a series of four interactive stories.

Taking the part of a park ranger, a research biologist, or a natural resource developer, the player searches for creative solutions to the conflicts between people and the bear. Additional software in the *Audubon Wildlife Adventures* series includes "Whales," "Sharks," and "Poacher Patrol." Each title comes with a curriculum guide with expanded activities. "Grizzly" is now available from your local software retailer; "Whales" will be out next year.

For more information, contact: Christopher Palmer, Vice-president and

Executive Producer, Audubon Television Programs, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; (202) 547-9009.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

At the October board meeting Audubon Canyon Ranch elected officers, directors and advisors for the coming year. Sponsoring Audubon chapters continue to provide vital leadership roles. New president Jack Harper (past president of Madrone), and first vice president Gary Holloway (past president of Marin) are only two of the many chapter representatives involved with the Ranch. New board members include Art Feinstein, Cliff Richer and Tom White. New members on the Advisory Board are Katie Beacock, Susie Coleman and Sue Hossfeld.

Our energetic docents remain the life blood of the environmental education programs. The Bouverie Audubon Council informs us that its 96 docents worked with 2557 children and 1282 adults during the past year. This includes those who attended guided walks, talks, seminars, workshops and special events. Bouverie Preserve biologist John Petersen announced publication of two new books prepared for docent training in Sonoma. At the Ranch the ACR Volunteer Council's 68 docents guided 3526 children from 109 schools through their program which includes uncounted school visits. They updated their fall teaching manual and renovated the teaching kits they bring to schools around the Bay Area.

Plans are being made to develop trails on both the east and west shores of Tomales Bay. Both may pass adjacent to or through preserves. Aquaculture leases are also being made there by the State Department of Fish and Game.

ACR biologists and the Properties and Conservation Committee continue to evaluate the role we will play in both developments.

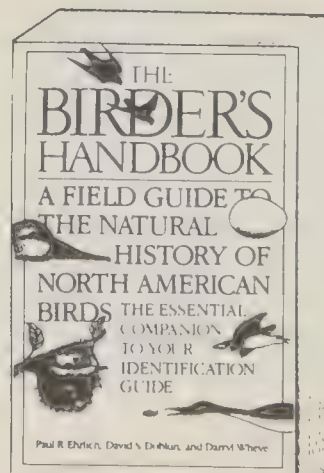
There is still time to make your contribution this year. Your gift of \$5 will enable us to send you ACR bulletins. Donors of \$100 or more are invited to our annual thank you party at the preserve. Of course this annual appeal is a major fund raiser for operations, maintenance and programs at various Ranch preserves.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

One of the most rewarding experiences you can have with friends is to share the Ranch with them. Watch the heronry, hike the trails, and picnic in the yard. Make the Ranch a resolution you will keep.

Training begins for Ranch Guides in February. Perhaps this is the year you will resolve to be more active in the Ranch family and help interpret our preserve at Bolinas Lagoon. You can call the Ranch at (415) 868-0573 to sign-up now or wait until the January "News from the Ranch" for more details.

—DAN MURPHY



"Serious birders will gain enormously from this extraordinary new guide."
—Roger Tory Peterson

Fireside Books 

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BIRDER’S HANDBOOK

Rave reviews have greeted the newly released *The Birder’s Handbook—A Field Guide to the Natural History of North Amerca Birds* by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin and Darryl Wheye. Many consider it a must for any interested birder or ecologist. Designed as a companion to the leading identification guides, *The Birder’s Handbook* covers the habits and habitats of 660 North American bird species. GGAS is offering the book for sale at a bargain rate of \$15.00 including tax and will even send it for an extra \$2 postage. An excellent gift suggestion for the ardent birder!

GGAS NOTECARDS
ARRIVE

Our Wetlands Series notecards have arrived at the office in time for gifts or holiday cards for your own use. We are very proud of these beautifully reproduced examples of painter Deborah Cotter’s watercolors of Peregrine Falcons, Wood Ducks, Bonaparte’s Gull and Clapper Rail. The four cards, complete with envelopes, are 5"×7". They will inform and remind people of the importance of wetlands conservation.

Available at the office or by mail, the cards will benefit GGAS wetlands activites.

GGAS HOLIDAY MART

Name _____

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		QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS WETLANDS SERIES	4 for \$5.35		
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE To The Birds of North America	\$18.15		
BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA An Annotated Field List	\$6.00		
THE BIRDER’S HANDBOOK A Field Guide	\$15.00		
CHRISTMAS COUNT T-SHIRTS:	\$11.00		
San Francisco—with Clark’s Grebe ()	S M L XL		
Oakland—with Emperor Goose ()	S M L XL		
POSTAGE			
TOTAL			

Price includes tax. Postage is \$1.50 per item (except the notecards which is \$1.00). Make check payable to GGAS. Save the postage by coming to the office to shop. Open T,W,TH & F 9-12 and 1-4.

SEED SALE REVISITED

Our late October bird seed sale can boast its pros and cons as usual. We did manage to provide seed to those who loyally ordered and in some cases patiently waited. We do apologize for the inconveniences experienced on the sale day in both San Francisco and Berkeley.

The bright spots were, of course, our volunteers who grunted and strained under the weight of those 50 lb. sacks and kept smiling if things went awry. Our special thanks goes to Darrell Hall in Berkeley who gamely lent us his garage and lawn from which to dispense the seed. And our thanks to Merritt Anderson of California Direct Importing Co., our supplier, who goes to great lengths on our behalf, though sometimes his timing is off.

We plan another sale in early February and solicit your comments about the seed sale in general, seed preferences and bird feeding practices, 843-2222.

OUR OFFICE

For many East Bay Co-op members the demise of the Cooperative is a very sad occasion, the end of an era. Our office upstairs at the Shattuck Ave. store for the last four years has benefited from the overlapping membership and we have had frequent drop in visits. Recently we have become uneasy about our remaining under the new ownership. At this writing we are in limbo. Our rent has been low by community standards and we do not want to pay more (nor can we afford to do so. Our need is for at least 300 sq. ft., reasonably easy access, not too many stairs, centrally located in the East Bay, and \$300 or less per month. Piece of cake, right? Please call if you have just the spot, or an idea we can follow up.

BACK YARD BIRDER

The column for this issue was lost or delayed in the mail, but will resume in *The Gull* for January.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of

Dorothy Carollo

Helen Chandler Brenner

Gift of

Thomas Castro

Ann L. Kidner

Richard G. Brenner

Mabel H. Potter

FOR RARE BIRD ALERT

Jay & Syd Harrison

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288
Update: 524-5592**

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.